



## **Somaliland Mission, USA**

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December 23, 2022

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senate  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Van Hollen:

On behalf of the Government of Somaliland, I am writing to express our sincere thanks for your continued support for Somaliland and the pursuit of our mutual objectives in the U.S. Senate. We are extremely thankful for your support for the Somaliland Partnership Act, which was the basis for the historic language referencing Somaliland in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2023 recently signed into law.

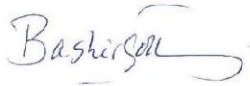
The introduction of the Somaliland Partnership Act sparked serious conversations in Congress about the opportunities presented by greater U.S. engagement with Somaliland on matters of mutual interest – including advancing democracy, enhancing trade and investment in the Horn of Africa, and countering terrorism, piracy, and trafficking in the region. It also highlighted the challenges Somaliland faces as an unrecognized nation in a tumultuous, but important region. This legislation served as the foundation for ongoing discussions with both Congress and the Biden Administration about advancing the verbal commitments made during President Bihi's visit to explore greater engagement between the U.S. and Somaliland. It was also the basis for similar proposals in the House of Representatives, which resulted in the first reference to Somaliland codified in U.S. law since we reasserted our independence in 1991.

Looking ahead, my government remains optimistic about the prospects for greater cooperation between the U.S. and Somaliland as we continue to navigate our shared objectives, both in the Horn of Africa and beyond. The exploration of current engagement and opportunities for future engagement required by the NDAA represents a monumental first step in what we hope will become a long and fruitful partnership between our two governments. I look forward to supporting you and your Senate colleagues on the reintroduction of the Somaliland Partnership Act and to engaging with the appropriate individuals in the House of Representatives to advance opportunities for U.S.-Somaliland collaboration.

As a friend of Somaliland, our government and people are proud to have your continued support. I look forward to welcoming you to Somaliland at your earliest convenience and to our continued collaboration in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress and beyond.

Thank you very much again.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bashir Goth".

Bashir Goth  
Somaliland Representative to the USA

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